

Outdoor Recreation Grants-In-Aid Programs

ILLINOIS



**DEPARTMENT OF
NATURAL
RESOURCES**

**Website:
<http://dnr.state.il.us>**

OVERVIEW

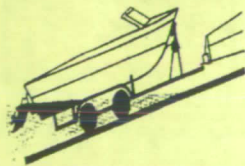
Outdoor recreation opportunities and open space lands are an important part of the quality of life enjoyed by Illinois citizens. The need to provide quality, close-to-home recreation opportunities and open space is a difficult challenge. To assist in this effort, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), administers nine grant programs to assist in the acquisition and/or development of a variety of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities.

All the programs operate on a cost reimbursement basis for approved project elements. Funding assistance through these programs is competitively awarded on an annual basis based upon written applications submitted to the Department by specified deadline dates for each program. Applications are evaluated and prioritized by the Department for funding according to specific criteria and goals established for each of the programs and designed to make selection of projects equitable and responsive to statewide and local outdoor recreation needs.

All grant assisted facilities must be designed to accommodate the physically disabled and be open to the general public without regard to race, color, national origin, sex, age, or residence.

The nine outdoor recreation grant programs available through the Department of Natural Resources are:

- * Boat Access Area Development (BAAD)
- * Bicycle Path Program
- * Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF)
- * Open Space Land Acquisition & Development (OSLAD)
- * Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV)
- * Open Lands Trust (OLT)
- * Recreational Trails Program (RTP)
- * Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund (STEF)
- * Snowmobile (Local Government)



BOAT ACCESS AREA DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

The State Boat Access Area Development Program, financed with revenues derived from marine motor fuel tax and boat/canoe registration fees provides financial assistance to local government agencies for the acquisition, construction, and expansion/rehabilitation, including necessary A/E services, of public boat and canoe access areas on Illinois' lakes and rivers.

The program provides up to 100% of approved project construction costs and 90% of approved land acquisition costs. Grant awards are limited to a \$200,000 annual maximum for motorized access projects and \$50,000 per canoe/non-motorized access projects. Applications for grant assistance must be received by IDNR between July 1 and September 1 of each calendar year. Awards are typically announced the following spring.

Examples of eligible project activities include:

- * water frontage land acquisition for public access areas; and
- * new construction or renovation of:
 - * boat/canoe launching ramps and courtesy docks;
 - * restrooms and security lighting;
 - * parking areas, access roads and walkways; and
 - * other boating related facilities deemed appropriate by IDNR.



BICYCLE PATH PROGRAM

The Illinois Bicycle Path Grant Program was created in 1990 to financially assist eligible units of government acquire, construct, and rehabilitate public, non-motorized bicycle paths and directly related support facilities. Grants are available to any local government agency having statutory authority to acquire and develop land for public bicycle path purposes.

Financial assistance up to 50% of approved project costs is available through the program. Maximum grant awards for development projects are limited to \$200,000 per annual request; no maximum exists for acquisition projects.

Applications for grant assistance must be received by IDNR between January 1 and March 1 of each calendar year. Grant awards are generally announced within six months following the application deadline date.

Eligible project costs include:

- * linear corridor land acquisition costs, including associated appraisal fees; and
- * bicycle path development or renovation including site clearing and grading, drainage, surfacing, bridging, fencing, signage, and directly related support facilities such as potable water and restroom facilities.



OPEN SPACE LANDS ACQUISITION AND DEVELOPMENT & LAND & WATER CONSERVATION FUND

The State's Open Space Lands Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) Program and federal Land & Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) provide funding assistance to local government agencies for the acquisition and/or development of land for public parks and open space. Projects vary from small neighborhood parks or tot lots to large community and county parks and nature areas.

Both programs provide funding assistance up to 50% of approved project costs. Maximum grant awards are currently limited to \$750,000 for acquisition projects, while development/renovation projects are limited to \$400,000.

Written applications for both the OSLAD and LWCF programs must be submitted to IDNR between May 1 and July 1 of each calendar year, with grant awards typically announced by December or January. A single application receives consideration under both programs. Only those local government agencies having statutory authority to acquire and develop land for public park purposes are eligible to apply for and receive OSLAD/LWCF assistance.

Applications are evaluated and prioritized for funding assistance based upon recreation priorities and criteria identified in the Department's Statewide Outdoor Recreation Partnership Plan (SORPP).

Examples of eligible OSLAD/LWCF projects include:

- * Acquisition of land for new park sites or park expansion, water frontage, nature study, and natural resource preservation.
- * Development/Renovation of:
 - picnic and playground facilities;
 - outdoor interpretive facilities;
 - sports courts and playfields;
 - swimming pools, beaches and bathhouses;
 - campgrounds and fishing piers;
 - winter sports facilities;
 - park roads and paths, parking, utilities and restrooms; and
 - architectural/engineering (A/E) services necessary for proper design and construction of approved project components.



OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLE (OHV) RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM

The State OHV program provides financial aid to government agencies, not-for-profit organizations, and individuals to develop, operate, maintain, and acquire land for off-highway vehicle parks and trails that are open and accessible to the public. Funding up to 100% of approved project costs is available. The application deadline is March 1 of each year.

Entities other than governmental bodies seeking financial assistance through the grant program must possess minimum liability insurance coverage of \$1,000,000 per occurrence on facilities operated under the scope of the proposed project application.

Eligible project costs include:

- * land acquisition from willing sellers for OHV trails and scramble areas
- * construction, rehabilitation, maintenance; and necessary design services for OHV trails/routes and scramble areas
- * restoration of areas damaged by OHV usage;
- * rider education and safety programs; and
- * necessary facility security

OPEN LAND TRUST PROGRAM

The Open Land Trust (OLT) Program is authorized for a four year period beginning in FY 2000 to provide grant funding assistance on a competitive basis to eligible local units of government for the acquisition of land from willing sellers for public conservation, open space and natural resource-related recreation purposes. Funding assistance up to 50% of eligible project costs, or 90% for agencies qualifying as "economically disadvantaged", is available through the program. The maximum grant award for any single project is \$2.0 million annually. A conservation easement shall be conveyed to IDNR for all property acquired with OLT assistance. The deadline date for submitting applications to DNR for this program is publicly announced each year.



RECREATIONAL TRAILS PROGRAM(RTP)

The federal "Recreational Trails Program" (RTP) provides up to 80% funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails. March 1 is the deadline date for submitting applications to the DNR who administers the program in Illinois.

Eligible applicants include federal, state and local government agencies and not-for profit organizations.

Eligible Project costs include:

- * acquisition from willing sellers of trail corridors by means of easements or fee simple title;
- * trail construction and rehabilitation;
- * construction of trail-related support facilities and amenities such as trailhead parking, restrooms, rest areas, signage, etc.;
- * restoration of areas adjacent to trails damaged by unauthorized uses.

SNOWMOBILE (LOCAL GOVERNMENT)

The state-funded *Snowmobile Grant Program* for local governments is financed from the registration fees of snowmobiles and can provide up to 100% reimbursement of approved facility development/rehabilitation costs and 90% of approved trail corridor land acquisition costs for public snowmobile trails and areas in the state. Development of shared recreation facilities are eligible for up to 50% funding. This program is available to any unit of local government located in a region of Illinois with sufficient snow cover and having statutory authority to acquire and develop lands for public park and recreation purposes.

Applications for grant assistance must be received by IDNR no later than May 1 of each calendar year. Grants are competitively awarded and typically announced by early fall of each year.

Examples of eligible project costs include:

- * land acquisition for snowmobile areas/trail corridors;
- * snowmobile trail construction and signage;
- * trail grooming equipment;
- * parking areas, security lighting, restroom facilities, and warming shelters; and
- * snowmobiles and communication equipment for local agency patrol use.



SNOWMOBILE TRAIL ESTABLISHMENT FUND

The *Snowmobile Trail Establishment Fund (STEF) Program* provides financial assistance to incorporated, private snowmobile clubs in Illinois. The STEF Program provides reimbursement funding assistance up to 100% of eligible project costs.

Funds for the program come from a portion of snowmobile registration fees collected by the state. Grants may be obtained by local snowmobile clubs to develop and maintain additional public trails and facilities in the state. Although grants are made to private clubs, STEF-assisted snowmobile trails and facilities must be open and available for general public use.

Applications for grant assistance must be submitted to IDNR no later than May 1 of each calendar year. Applications are evaluated for funding consideration according to program priorities and criteria established by the Department with grant awards typically announced by early fall.

Grant assistance may be obtained for the following:

- * trail development costs including clearing, grading, and surfacing;
- * trail signs and fencing;
- * trail groomers;
- * bridges or fence traversing ramps (must be portable); and
- * parking facilities and warming shelters/restrooms (must be located on public park land).

To request grant application manuals or additional information regarding any of the referenced grant programs, contact:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Division of Grant Administration
One Natural Resources Way
Springfield, Illinois 62702-1787

Tele: (217)782-7481
E-mail: grants@dnrmil.state.il.us
Fax: (217)782-9599

OTHER GRANT & TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FROM IDNR

Urban/Community Forestry Assistance Program (217/782-2361)
Rural Community Fire Protection Grants (217/782-2361)
Sport Fish Stocking Program (217/782-6424)
Natural Area & Endangered Species Technical Assistance
(217/785-8774)
Wildlife Resources Assistance (217/782-6384)
Greenways/Trails Program (217/782-3715)
Wetlands Program (217/785-8287)
Statewide Recreation Planning Program (217/782-3715)
Clean Vessel Act Grant Program (217/782-2602)
Conservation 2000 (217/782-7940)
Museum Grants - Capital & Operating (217/ 782-5992)

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding source's civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.